being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacant post of Deputy Advisor (UNANI) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1354. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Deputy Advisor (Unani) is lying vacant in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the last so many years; if so, since when;

(b) what are the reasons for keeping this post vacant for such a long period; and

(c) by when it is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The post of Deputy Adviser (Unani) in this Ministry is vacant since 25-2-1985. The post has not been filled up so far as initially the Recruitment Rules were to be amended. After the amendment of the Recruitment Rules, the matter was taken up with the Union Public Service Commission as the post is required to be filled up by direct recruitment. The post was reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidate. Since no person was available from this category a fresh requisition was sent and the post was advertised by the Commission on 12-11-1988. The recommendations of the Commission are awaited.

Lack of funds for health Schemes

1355 DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item on lack of funds for health schemes which appeared in the Times of India dated ,the 2nd February, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether some remedial measures will be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The news item has been seen by the Government. The Government is alrady seized of the problem. Recommendations of the Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family *Welfare held 1—3 February, 1989 have* been forwarded to the Planning Commission for consideration depending on their feasibility and availability of resources.

Privatisation of Defence Production by contacting foreign firms

1356. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning privatisation of defence Production by contacting foreign firms; and

(b) if so, the areas of manufacture already handed over to private agencies through foreign firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b)

With regard to indigenous production of Defence stores, the policy adopted by the Government is one of optimum utilisation of the capacity available in the country, be that in the Defence Sector or Civil Sector including the Private Sector. Pursuant to this policy, a number of low-technology items have been off-loaded from the defence production units to the civil sector including the private sector. In addition whenever new weapon systems, ammunitions or other equipment are being

planned for production in the defence production units, non-lethal, non-sensitive components, sub-assemblies and assemblies which can be productionised in the civil sector are being identified and orders for such components, sub-assemblies and assemblies are ordered on civil sector firms including those in the private sector. This cannot be called privatisation. Such off-loading to the civil sector including the private sector is, however, through direct inter action with the Industry and not through foreign firms.

Poverty alleviation

1357. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state·

(a) The steps taken to lay sterss on poverty alleviation and to solve unemployment problem during the Seventh Five Year plan period;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard during the Eighth Five Year plan preiod; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Removal of poverty and unemployment is the central concern of planning in India. Consistent with this objective, the Seventh Plan laid emphasis on accelarated agricultural growth, increased productivity of rice in eastern region, developing the potential of dry land agriculture, adoption of special measures for increasing and expandinglirrigation facilities, provision of incentives for development of small and village industries. The Plan also included a number of antipoverty and employment generation programmes specially designed to raise skills productivity and incomes of people below the poverty line.

(b) and (c) Steering|Working Grouns have been set up to suggest specific steps which need to be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Spread of AIDS in India

1358. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to ensure that the existing blood banks have not been trainted by AIDS-infected donors;

(b) whether Government have started a systematic approach to this problem; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) 739 Blood Banks are functioning in the country. Out of this 50 per cent of the available blood is collected from four Metropolitian cities.

An action plan has been evolved to enoure safety of blood products and prevent spread of AIDS infection through bload transfusion steps have been initiated to establish linkages between blood banks and surveillance centres in 30 cities, so that screening of blood for HIV antibodies could be initiated. In two metropolitan cities—Madras and Bombay the screening programme has already been launched.

Guidelines have also been issued for screening of blood donors, where surveillance centres have been established by Indian Council of Medical Research

Export of Defence items

1359. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export defence items;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been prepared regarding the items to be